

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 L-01

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-03 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00

/055 W

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R 121720Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06158

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, UR, GW, PGOV

SUBJECT: FRG/USSR: BILATERAL RELATIONS AND BERLIN  
PROBLEMS

REFS: A. BONN 5855 (NOTAL); B. BONN 5856 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER BELIEVES  
SOVIET POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE FRG IS NOT "REALISTIC" AND  
INDICATED THE FRG WOULD NOT MAKE CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN  
THE THREE OUTSTANDING COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE  
BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE USSR AND WHICH ARE BEING  
HELD UP ON THE BERLIN ISSUE. GENSCHER COMPLIMENTED THE  
ALLIES FOR THEIR FIRM STANCE IN THE RECENT REICHSBAHN  
DISPUTE, STATING THAT ALLIED CLARITY AND FIRMNESS WOULD  
ALSO BE REQUIRED SHOULD THE S-BAHN BECOME A  
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PROBLEM. GENSCHER SAID THE FRG HAD AN INTEREST IN

BREZHNEV'S VISITING THE FRG BUT FORESAW NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR HIM TO DO SO. HE INQUIRED WHETHER THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO THE US WAS COMPLETELY LINKED TO A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME ON APRIL 12 MAINLY CONCERNING OTHER SUBJECTS (REPORTED SEPTELS), FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER COMMENTED ON GERMAN-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS AND HIS REFUSAL TO OFFER CONCESSIONS ON BERLIN TO THE SOVIET UNION IN ORDER TO SECURE APPROVAL OF THE CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. GENSCHER SAID HE HAD TOLD GROMYKO THE FRG COULD NOT GIVE WAY ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THIS INCLUDED THE POINT THAT THE FRG WOULD NOT MOVE ONE MILLIMETER ON THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT (REF A). GENSCHER SAID THE SOVIETS STILL DO NOT HAVE A "REALISTIC" POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE FRG, AND DO NOT PROPERLY EVALUATE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE FRG.

2. I ASKED GENSCHER WHETHER BREZHNEV WOULD BE VISITING THE FRG AS A RECENT SPATE OF REPORTS WOULD HAVE HIM. GENSCHER REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE EXTENSION OF THE FRG'S INVITATION DATING BACK TO SCHMIDT'S MOSCOW VISIT IN OCTOBER, 1974, NOTING THAT, WHILE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC RETAINED AN INTEREST IN HAVING BREZHNEV VISIT BONN, THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR HIM TO DO SO- (REF B). MOREOVER, A VISIT DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT BE OPPORTUNE AND THE EARLY SUMMER CALENDAR WAS ALREADY BECOMING CROWDED. GENSCHER CITED THE GIEREK VISIT IN JUNE. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER BREZHNEV WOULD BE VISITING THE US IN THE NEAR FUTURE OR WHETHER SUCH A VISIT WAS TIED COMPLETELY TO A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON THIS POINT, BUT ASSUMED THAT SALT CONTINUED TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SUCH A VISIT.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF BREZHNEV'S HEALTH, GENSCHER SAID THAT THE GENERAL SECRETARY WAS OBVIOUSLY A SICK MAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06158

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HE NOTED THAT A LIVELY DISCUSSION HAD OCCURRED AMONG THE ASSEMBLED COMMUNIST LEADERS JUST PRIOR TO THE START OF THE BULGARIAN PARTY CONGRESS AS TO THE REASONS FOR BREZHNEV'S LAST-MINUTE FAILURE TO ATTEND. GENSCHER ADDED THAT ZHIVKOV HAD NOT ONCE MENTIONED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S NAME IN HIS SPEECH.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS OWN UNYIELDING POSITION ON BERLIN, THE FOREIGN MINISTER ENDORSED THE WAY IN WHICH THE ALLIES HAD MAINTAINED THEIR RIGHTS ON THE REICHSBAHN STATIONS CONSTRUCTION ISSUE. HE CONFIDED THAT HE KNEW OTHER EAST EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS (NOT SPECIFIED) WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE GDR'S STUBBORNNES IN SUCH MATTERS. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM WHEN INTERPRETERS AND AIDES WERE NOT PRESENT, THESE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR  
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GENSCHER'S POSITION ON BERLIN MATTERS AS OPPOSED TO

THE POLICY PURSUED BY THE GDR.

5. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF THE REICHSBAHN STATIONS, I MENTIONED THAT THE ALLIES MAY HAVE TO FACE AN EVEN MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEM REGARDING THE S-BAHN, SHOULD THE GDR, WHICH CLAIMS TO BE LOSING MONEY, DECIDE TO GIVE UP THE OPERATION. I NOTED THAT THE ALLIES ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE PROBLEM, BUT THAT AN EASY SOLUTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AVAILABLE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE EXTENT OF TERRITORY SERVED BY THE S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN AND THE INTERMINGLING OF REICHSBAHN ACTIVITIES AND RIGHT-OF-WAY WITH THOSE OF THE S-BAHN. GENSCHER LISTENED WITH INTEREST, AND COMMENTED THAT ALLIED CLARITY AND FIRMNESS WILL BE REQUIRED.

6. GENSCHER SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE TALKS ON BERLIN AT THE OSLO NATO MINISTERIAL. BESIDES DISCUSSING CURRENT ISSUES, GENSCHER INDICATED HE HOPED TO HAVE SOME FUERTH BEER AVAILABLE FOR THE MINISTERS. HE ASKED THAT HIS GREETINGS BE CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY.  
HILLENBRAND

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